Planning District Commission
WIP III Recommendations
- Overview -

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Jutta Schneider, Director
Water Planning Division
Background

• Grant awards to 14 PDCs/ Regional Commissions in early July
  – Work with localities and other stakeholders
  – Review and revise as needed the BMP mix ("input deck") identified as part of WIP II
  – Identify programmatic actions (funding, capacity, authority) in support of BMP mix
  – Completion by December 15
Engagement

- PDCs engaged:
  - Hosted at least 3 public meetings with their stakeholders
  - Average attendance 15 – 35 people
  - SWCDs, agricultural interest groups
  - local governments, utilities, local health districts
  - state agencies, federal agencies, federal facilities
  - conservation groups, consultants, colleges and universities, private citizens
Engagement

- PDCs engaged:
  - Held one-on-one or small group meetings to further inform process
  - Additional engagement and follow-up through e-mail and conference calls
  - Ongoing exchanges with technical staff on refining input decks
    - For Richmond region, DEQ worked directly with stakeholders
Engagement

- PDCs engaged, cont.
  - Participated in combined meetings with SWCDs
    - Share observations about process
    - Report top BMPs and programmatic actions
    - Discuss opportunities for collaboration
PDC Observations

- Dedicated, knowledgeable local stakeholders
- Best takeaways and recommendations came from locality-specific meetings
- Each locality has different challenges to improving water quality as well as other priorities and pressures
- Greater understanding of existing local efforts and roles of key stakeholders
- Identified opportunities for greater collaboration and planning
PDC Observations

- Identification of key deficiencies in reporting of existing local efforts; discomfort with numbers; issues with data reporting and management
- BMP costs woefully underestimated and rising
- Lack of training opportunities for staff and contractors
- Prioritize research needs for BMP co-benefits/new BMPs
Top PDC Recommendations - BMPs

- Stream & Shoreline Restoration
- Urban Tree Plantings
- Nutrient Management
- Septic Systems
- Stormwater BMPs
- Growth Policies
Top PDC Recommendations – Programmatic Actions

- Local Regional Planning & Coordination
- Staff Capacity
- Program Co-Benefits & Synergies
- BMP Research & Crediting
- BMP Tracking & Reporting
- Funding
PDC Hot Topic: Funding

• Need for funding
  – Existing/expanding programs (SLAF, VCAP, WQIF)
  – Voluntary BMPs, septic pumping, urban cost-share program, BMP verification and reporting
  – Local, regional and state agency staff

• Funding important vs staffing capacity

• Grants vs sustained $ source

• Focus on incentives

• Streamline existing funding sources and match opportunities
Questions ?